



Meteor



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Around USAG Benelux

USAG Benelux

Rapid Tools Program available in Benelux

HEIDELBERG, Germany – U.S. Army, Europe's G-4, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, opened a new Rapid Tools Program facility May 1, run by representatives from the Kipper Tool Company, the organization that will run the Rapid Tools Program

The Rapid Tools Program is part of Army logistics modernization efforts, and is intended to put industrial-quality tools in the hands of Army maintainers, wherever and whenever they need the tools.

In USAREUR, three tool trucks travel to units twice each month throughout Germany, Italy and the Benelux (Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg), carrying the industrial-quality equivalent of USAREUR's 300 most in-demand tools. The vendor will also handle special orders not carried on the truck.

In addition, if a standard tool is out of stock at the time the vendor visits a unit, Kipper Tool Company will "drop ship" the item within 48 hours.

The Rapid Tools Program has two main benefits, Bryant said: quality and speed.

The program is designed to help alleviate the burden of continuous replacement of non-industrial quality tools that have no warranty.

For more information on the Rapid Tools Program, contact call DSN 370-7511.



**American
Red Cross
Blood Drive**

June 26

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Hangar No. 4

Chièvres Air Base

Grads ready to mold future

By J.D. Hardesty

Meteor-Heraut Editor

They received their diplomas, said there good-byes and now, they begin to step out and mold their future.

Three high schools across the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's footprint held commencement ceremonies last week.

AF North International High School graduated 49 students.

Brussels American School graduated 20 students.

SHAPE High School graduated 74 seniors from 15 countries.

Those graduating with honors include:

AF North International School

United States

Valedictorian - Emily Hernandez Goldstein

Salutatorian - Nemanja Ivanovski

Canada

Valedictorian - John Phillip Lillard

Salutatorian - Sara McKay

Brussels American High School

Valedictorian - Logan Quinn

Salutatorian - Eric Popp

Quinn will be attending Johns Hopkins University while Popp will be attending the University of North Dakota this fall.

Brussels Senior Matt Reimann received the Association of Retired Members of the (U.S.) Armed Forces, Belgium (ARMAF-B) scholarship in the amount of \$500. The



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

Parents and friends congratulate Brussels American School seniors after commencement ceremonies at the City of Brussels Town Hall last week. Three high schools across the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux footprint held commencement ceremonies.

scholarship is given for academic excellence to a Brussels American School graduate who is a military family member accepted at an institution of higher learning. Reimann will attend Villanova University this fall.

SHAPE American High School

Valedictorian - Nadzeya Lurentsyeu

Salutatorian - Stephanie Gonzales

Lurentsyeu will be attending a university in her home country of Belarus while Gonzales will be attending

Brigham Young University to study secondary education.

SHAPE graduates who received the 2006 President's Education Award include: Stephanie Gonzales, Dan Brown, Megan England, Ronnie Kieklak, Charese Cruz, Christina Ludvigsen, Jessica Fitzgerald, Noel Grace Ochintang, Nadzeya Laurents-yeva, Caitlin Hopkins, Zachary Rabiego, Jessica DeWitt, Rachel Lo Presti, Hayley Heineken and Lukas Velehradsky.

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USAG Schinnen 1st Army garrison in Europe to receive Superior Unit Award

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, formerly 254th Base Support Battalion, became the first European garrison in Army history to be awarded with an Army Superior Unit award on June 14, during the USAG Schinnen change-of-command ceremony.

The award was presented to former Schinnen garrison commander Lt. Col. Rick Richardson by USAG Benelux Commander Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski for superior mission accomplishment from June 1, 2004 through June 1, 2005 during which time the unit set the Installation Management Europe standard for strategic planning, environmental stewardship and resource management.

"The significance of this award is few units in battalions or above have received the Army Superior Unit award," said Nowowiejski. "Within the span of Lt. Col. Richardson's command - on his watch, with his team, the USAG Schinnen re-

See Schinnen, page 5



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux commander Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski (left) presented the Army Superior Unit Award to Lt. Col. Richard Richardson, former commander of USAG Schinnen June 14 during the garrison's change-of-command ceremony. USAG Schinnen is the first garrison in Europe to receive the unit award.



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
USAG Benelux Commander

Welcome to summer across the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux. The tulips have passed, the 4th of July approaches, and PCS (Permanent Change of Station) season is in high gear.

NATO continues its important missions leading the International Security Assistance Force and in developing a NATO Response Force, having just concluded a major ministerial

Nowowiejski Notes

meeting in Brussels.

First, let's highlight summer safety. Motorcycle safety remains a focus point, with a consistent pattern of fatalities across the Army from speed, alcohol use, and failure to wear protective equipment.

To that end, the most important thing you must do if you own a motorcycle is to have a current Motorcycle Safety Foundation certificate and to serve as a mentor to more inexperienced riders to the special road hazards of the Benelux.

For more information on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation course, call the Driver's Testing Station at DSN: 366-6603 or Civilian: 065-32-6603.

Several of our local motorcycle clubs are considering partnership programs with their local garrisons to offer voluntary mentorship programs. Thanks to them, this community spirit will save lives.

Many of you probably don't know

about the easy-to-use POV (privately owned vehicle) Risk Assessment tools available to you on-line right now, whether you are military or civilian; speak English, French, or Dutch.

First, there is ASMIS2, the Army's updated POV Risk Assessment that takes only a few minutes, considers all risks, and will help you manage risk on your next weekend or holiday trip. I encourage you to try it.

Use of the ASMIS2 is mandatory for Soldiers on leave or pass. It is available from the Combat Readiness Center main page at <https://www.crc.army.mil>. If you are a civilian employee primarily speaking French or Dutch, there is an on-line Driver's Risk Assessment questionnaire for you in your principal language at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/installation/safetyinfo.asp>.

This handy tool was developed by the USAG Benelux Safety Office based on ASMIS.

All of these POV Risk Assessment tools are designed to minimize your risk while traveling.

The risk to you in the summertime across the narrow and congested roads of the Benelux with their special driving rules is real. Save yourself and your family. Take a risk assessment.

Finally, a word about fun. Independence Day is almost here. Three Benelux communities: three separate celebrations by community, Brussels with a first ever interagency celebration at Brussels American School on Saturday July 1st, Chièvres community at SHAPE on July 4th, and the Schinnen tri-border community on Saturday July 8th at JFC Brunssum.

See the back cover of the **Benelux Link** or the information in this **Meteor-Heraut** for details.

Depending on which celebration you attend, and you are welcome to attend more than one, there will be fireworks, food, multiple entertainment acts, fun activities for the family, and some surprise activities.

This is our time for the American communities to show their colors to our NATO partners.

McKiernan Sends #11-06

Safety Alert: Alcohol, Drugs, Owning the Edge

1. Three months ago I implemented the Summer 2006 Lifesaving Campaign. One of the campaign goals was to combat alcohol- and drug-related deaths. Despite our best efforts, we have yet to succeed.

2. Our recent well-being survey confirms that alcohol and drug abuse continues to be a serious concern among those who responded. Soldiers who redeploy are especially at risk. Some Soldiers have become dependent on alcohol or prescribed medications and are unable to quit. Others crave the adrenaline rush associated with combat and try to duplicate that feeling by mixing alcohol and drugs. Others are using these substances as a sedative, to help them sleep, or simply to forget.

3. Over the past few weeks one Soldier has died and six Army officers have been charged with driving under the influence. The Soldier who died had recently redeployed and had been drinking alcohol until the early morning hours with some of his buddies. He lost consciousness and appears to have drowned in his own body fluids. Drugs may also have been a factor in this tragedy.

4. We have enough programs in place to help our Soldiers overcome problems associated with combat. What we need is for leaders, Soldiers, and civilians to live the Army Values by having the courage to intervene when they see someone in trouble. My last McKiernan Sends message discussed a concept called *Own the Edge*. Many of our comrades in arms are walking precariously along that edge and will go over it if we fail to take action.

5. Our ability to "own the edge" can be improved



General David D. McKiernan
CINC USAREUR

by becoming aware of the dangers associated with abusing alcohol and drugs. One way to learn about these dangers is by using the powerful tool developed by V Corps to address high-risk drinking and alcohol poisoning. This tool, which is available at <http://www.vcorps.army.mil/Safety/AlcoholPoisoningBrief%202006-03.ppt>, was created primarily for leaders and redeploying Soldiers; but all of us can benefit from the valuable information it provides. Even those who avoid alcohol and drugs can use this information to help recognize and help battle buddies who have problems. As you read the slides, you will see the same factors as those in the tragedy described in paragraph 3 above. The slides also describe high-risk behavior and how to intervene.

6. In addition to becoming aware of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, I need you to do the following to take care of yourselves and those around you:

☐ **Don't Walk By.** If you recognize that someone has a problem, take action, regardless of whether he or she is a battle buddy, family member, someone you supervise, or your leader.

☐ Keep in mind that seeking assistance is a sign of strength, not weakness, and indicates your desire to ensure your own well-being and fitness for duty. The Army Substance Abuse Program can help, but you need to take the first step. Make the hard choice to get help for yourself.

☐ Acknowledge that these are stressful times, but remember that you are not alone. Social Work Services and other community mental-health resources are available to help those suffering from posttraumatic and other forms of stress.

☐ Understand that a buddy who helps you go over "the edge" is not a real buddy.

7. I ask you once again to consider the consequences of your actions and watch out for your battle buddies, family members, and friends. If you have a problem, using alcohol and drugs is not the solution. Take advantage of the programs available throughout the Army in Europe to get the help you need.

USAG Benelux American Independence Day Celebrations

USAG Brussels,
July 1, noon - 6 p.m.
Brussels American School.

Chièvres/SHAPE
July 4, noon - 11 p.m.
SHAPE GB shopping area.

USAG Schinnen,
July 8, noon
Headquarters,
Joint Forces Command
Brunssum, The Netherlands

NOTE: July 4th celebrations and activities are open to all authorized ID card holders.

Grads

...from page 1

Attending high school overseas has its challenges and advantages.

Gonzales explained attending Department of Defense Dependent Schools at SHAPE brought with it several lessons.

"No matter what language a person speaks, we can all still communicate," she said. "We can see that people aren't really that different."

Gonzales explained how living in Belgium while attending school opened up new doors to history and culture.

"By going to SHAPE schools, I was able to meet new people and cultures. It really opens up your mind to future possibilities," she said.

Of course, different students have different perspectives of attending schools overseas.

"Attending AF North International School has given me an international perspective on things that I wouldn't have otherwise gained if I had been in Canada," said Brady Donahue. "I'm sad to leave my friends, but I'm looking forward to the new opportunities that university will offer."

Independence came to the forefront of many graduates thoughts.

"I'm ready for my independence," said AF North International High School graduate Misha Villahermosa, who highlighted her vacations and travel around Europe as one of the benefits of attending school overseas.

"I'm going to miss my parents, but I'll stay in touch," she said. "It will be different. I won't be under lock and key and they won't be able to say no...which is a scary thought."

Many of the new graduates will be attending college next fall.

Reimann explained, "Most high schools back home have their graduation ceremonies on school football fields or in gyms," he said. "It was really neat Brussels American School was able to have ours in the historic City Hall in one of the great cities in Europe."

Others had a more simple message when asked about their graduation and plans.

Popp, who heads to the University of North Dakota said, "I've graduated from high school. I really want to thank my mom and dad and tell them that I love them."

Brandon Pierce, who will be attending Northern Michigan University this fall, said, "It's great to be a graduate. I'm going to miss Brussels."

Mike Zupi, who will attend the University of North Dakota, said, "I had a great experience, but I'm glad to be going back to the USA!"

Graduate Honors

Valedictorian **Salutatorian**
AF North
International High School
United States



Emily Hernandez Goldstein



Nemanja Ivanovski

Canada



John Phillip Lillard



Sara McKay

Brussels American High School



Logan Quinn



Eric Popp

SHAPE American High School



Nadzeya Lurentsyeu



Stephanie Gonzales

About the Meteor-Heraut

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- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
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Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
June 26	July 7	July 24	Aug. 4	Aug. 28	Sept. 8	Sept. 25	Oct. 6
July 10	July 21	Aug. 7	Aug. 18	Sept. 11	Sept. 22	Oct. 10	Oct. 20



Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities

Community Notes

Shuttle bus routes hit funding woes

The shuttle bus between Hotel Maisières/SHAPE and Chièvres changed its schedule June 15.

The schedule was streamlined with two routes dropped in an attempt to continue to provide quality services while reducing operational costs.

According to Chièvres Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John Romero, "We are reducing the shuttle bus operating hours as part of a cost reduction initiative. Two routes were identified with no riders and were eliminated."

To obtain a copy of the new schedule, please stop by the Hotel Maisières, the PX, the Commissary, ACS or Bldg. No. 220 (Transportation) on SHAPE. You can also check the new schedule on the intranet at <https://usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local>.

Commissary will be closed July 4th

The Chièvres Air Base Commissary will be closed Monday, July 3rd (its normal day of closure, and Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. The store will resume normal operating hours Wednesday.

Air Force to host annual picnic

The U.S. Air Force's annual picnic for 2006 will be held July 27 on SHAPE GB festival area from noon to 5 p.m.

All USAF members are encouraged to get creative and bring a side dish such as potato, macaroni, or jello salad, baked beans or chili, or a dessert to share with everyone else.

To make sure we don't end up with 200 different versions of potato salad, it is requested that personnel with last names beginning with the letters A-L bring salads and side dishes, and those with last names beginning with the letters M-Z bring a dessert.

Call 423-5536 or 361-5900 for additional information.

Emergency responders rehearse

Story and photos by Cis Spook

Chièvres Garrison Public Affairs Officer

It's a regular working day.

On Chièvres Air Base, a man is carrying a drum in close vicinity of the Military Police station. All of a sudden, the drum drops, the chemicals spills on the ground and the man lays unconscious.

Fortunately, this was only the scenario for a joint exercise with Host Nation emergency agencies at the Chièvres Garrison.

"Crisis management is associated with unforecasted incidents. Therefore, the more we rehearse and interact with our Host Nation counterparts, the better we get. It is essential to maintain bilateral relations with the Host Nation agencies as we both prepare for unprogrammed incidents," stated Lt. Col. John G. Romero, Chièvres Garrison Commander.

If something like the above scenario would happen on Caserne Daumerie or Chièvres Air Base, the first emergency responders would be the local Chièvres Fire Department. They would evaluate the situation and not knowing what kind of chemical is involved, they would call upon the 3 UP (Third Provincial Unit) of the Civil Protection in Ghlin, close to Mons. They would be in charge to identify the chemical, evacuate the victim, decontaminate the intervening team and the victim prior to receive any medical care and treat the chemical spill. "It takes approximately 30 minutes for the Civil Protection to set up a decontamination unit like this one and to dress the intervening team with the appropriate attire prior to enter the contaminated area," explained Eddy Moulin from the Ghlin Civil Protection. "Once they enter the contaminated area, the chemical detection team



Once the chemical identified, the Civil Protection decontaminates the victim and the chemical detection team accordingly before they receive any medical treatment.

will identify the chemical and through hand radios, communicate the specifics to us so we know what product to use for the decontamination," Moulin added.

"This demonstration is important to better react in case of a real situation," stated Bernard Busiau from the Chièvres Fire Department. "Our fire department also needs to know how the Civil Protection is working, what kind of material they have, how much space they need to set up their specific equipment. All those things are good to know prior to an incident and therefore it is essential to practice with all services that would be involved in case of an emergency," Busiau concluded.



PHOTO: Cis Spook

The chemical detection team from the Civil Protection in Ghlin, team with Chièvres Air Base Directorate of Emergency Services during a chemical spill exercise. The joint-exercise is part of the Chièvres Garrison continuing efforts to provide a safe and secure environment to live and work.

USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

Lt. Col. Eric D. Tilley assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen from Lt. Col. Richard Richardson June 14, in a change-of-command ceremony at the Schinnen Parade Field on Emma Mine Complex. USAG Benelux Commander Dean A. Nowowiejski presided over the ceremony.

Tilley takes Schinnen helm

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Eric D. Tilley assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen June 14, from Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson during the change of command ceremony at the Schinnen Parade Field on Emma Mine Complex.

Richardson commanded the garrison which supported more than 7,800 Soldiers, families and civilians since 2004. He is headed to the Installation Management Agency Headquarters in Washington D.C.

"Today we say farewell to a great Army family," said USAG Benelux Commander Col. Dean Nowowiejski. "I'm

proud to say that Rick is staying in the IMA family to be the executive officer to the director of the Installation Management Agency and I'm glad that he's staying with us to tell the story of NATO and the Benelux community."

Tilley, a 1989 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, previously was the chief of personnel for the NATO Communications Information Systems Agency in Mons, Belgium.

"The Schinnen Garrison is an Army community of excellence moving into the future under Lt. Col. Tilley's leadership," said Nowowiejski.

"The people of this community, from

the tri-border area, to Rotterdam, to Bremerhaven, to Rheindahlen and Munster, have all impressed me over the past two years with their character, team work and absolute dedication to their mission," said Richardson. "Today I truly discovered the hardest part of this command, and that is to say farewell to the team of teams that make up U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen."

"It is my pleasure to be joining this team today," said Tilley. "My family and I look forward to being a part of the tri-border family and the USAG Benelux community and will continue to strive to make this community your community of choice."

Schinnen...from page 1

ceived this recognition. So, to be able to present the citation of award at the change of command is really noteworthy, in principle for the team, the community of USAG Schinnen and all the people that have contributed to that accomplishment and for the commander as he gives up command and goes to another assignment."

USAG Schinnen marks the 4th garrison in Army history to receive the unit award which is awarded for outstanding meritorious performance of a unit during peacetime in a difficult and challenging mission under extraordinary circumstances.

"USAG Schinnen received the Army Superior Unit award for their support of the global war on terror," said Nowowiejski. "As a garrison organization, their base sup-

port has distributed units across their footprint, which is all of North Germany and the Netherlands. That's in addition to just being a great hometown American base here in the Limburg province in the Netherlands where people from those areas can come to do their business and gain their base operation support and find an American home in an American community. All those services are provided by USAG Schinnen."

"The Army Superior Unit award is a great honor and truly represents the hard work and dedication of every single soldier and civilian in the garrison," said Richardson. "It is a result of individuals working as a larger team to make quality and customer service our watch words. This is not my award; it is the garrison's award."

Driver's Testing honors Host Nation school

Representatives from Schinnen's Driver's Testing Station presented an award to the Dutch military driving school, OTCrij located in Oirschot, June 2, for providing the Schinnen driver testing station with their services, products and time free of charge.

Since 2001, the military Dutch driving school has been providing the garrison's Driver's Testing Station with computerized programs for military personnel and their families stationed here whom need to receive a Dutch driver's license.

"Military personnel would be able to receive the driving testing free of charge because they fall under the SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement), but for their dependents to take a driving exam, it would cost them a minimum of €500 if they pass the first time," said Wauter Vermeulen, Schinnen's chief driving instructor. "By the Dutch school providing the program to Schinnen free of charge, they're saving the garrison hundreds-of-thousands of euros because we don't have to develop the program or worry about copyrights- we're using it directly from the Dutch army."

The two Schinnen driving instructors, along with representatives from the directorate of logistics presented the awards as a token of appreciation.

"It is important to always thank the people that give their own time and their support," said Vermeulen. "It's also good for future reference if we need other things, it makes for good relations. We just want to show our gratitude."

The driving testing that Schinnen provides its Soldiers and their families is the English equivalent to the training the Dutch receive. Upon receiving the testing programs, Vermeulen, along with personnel from OTCrij translate the programs and install them on the Schinnen Driver's Testing Stations' computers.

Because the training here is equal to the training that the Dutch receive, the U.S. Air Force, Europe licenses U.S. citizens carry is comparable to the Dutch driver's license. "When we give a USAFE license it can be traded into a Dutch driving license because we give the same testing as on the Dutch economy," said Vermeulen.

This marks the first time OTCrij has received an award of appreciation for their services.

USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community

Community partners for expansion

Brussels American School students tackle Shoppette design

By Thad Moyseowicz

Brussels Public Affairs Officer

The USAG Brussels Shoppette was formally re-inaugurated June 6, with Army Col. Forrest Wentworth, commander of AAFES-Europe presiding over the ceremony.

The ceremony noted both the Shoppette's 40 percent expansion in support of the needs of the Brussels community and the unusual circumstances surrounding the facility's redesign.

What makes these circumstances unusual is that they involved an innovative partnership between the U.S. Army Garrison Brussels, its tenant AAFES, the Brussels community at large and students from Brussels American School who, through their Computer-Assisted Design (CAD) class actually provided the architectural design and renderings used for the project.

The project had its inception in the course of a casual conversation at the start of the 2005-06 school year between USAG Brussels Commander Lt. Col. Pat Kilroy and BAS teacher Eric Westland.

Westland teaches several classes of CAD at the school and was explaining his program to Kilroy. Together, the two thought involving the CAD students in the Shoppette expansion project would be a win-win proposition for all concerned, with the students gaining practical experience and actually seeing a project through from design to execution.

Westland pitched the idea to his 16 second-year students. While they had previous experience modeling three-dimensional architectural designs, including a "dream house," all of their previous projects had been "theoretical." They were thrilled with the possi-



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

USAG Brussels Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Pat Kilroy, Brussels American School students Brandon Webb and Mike Zupi (partially obscured by Webb), BAS teacher Eric Westland and AAFES-Europe Commander Col. Forrest Wentworth cut the ribbon opening the redesigned Brussels Shoppette.

bility of taking on a project that would tax their design skills and which they would actually see built, and they accepted the challenge with enthusiasm.

In order to properly meet the needs of their "customer," the students met with both the Shoppette manager and the actual construction representatives.

Together, they discussed the general parameters of the project along with restrictions (both physical and funding), and obtained a thorough understanding of the project's scope and functionality.

The students created full-size 3-D computer models over the next three weeks. Students worked with "Autodesk Revit," the same program used to design the Freedom Tower in New York City, to do their work.

Elements of the proposals were then judged by a panel selected from throughout the Brussels Joint and Inter-agency community. The panel selected the best proposals for use as the actual design provided to the contractors who physically modify the facility in accordance with the student-created plans.

First and second prizes went to BAS students Mike Zupi and Brandon Webb, who earned cash awards of \$100 and \$75, respectively. Each other member of the team received a \$25 award.

Wentworth congratulated the students, thanking them for their efforts which resulted in a direct improvement in quality of life for the Brussels community.

He particularly emphasized how their project had saved on design costs, which were further applied to Shoppette enhancement for the direct betterment of the community. Wentworth also praised the "partnership" concept, explaining that success stories such as this were particularly significant and worthy of emulation in today's budgetary climate.

Says CAD-student Zupi: "All of us on the team really enjoyed the challenge of this project. It was really neat to be able to work a project that was not only a school exercise, but which tangibly benefited our community."

Four Brussels youth earn Eagle Scout rank

By Thad Moyseowicz

Brussels Public Affairs Officer

Four members of Troop 457, Boy Scouts of America, attained the top rank of "Eagle Scout" at Boards of Review held at the U.S. Army Garrison, Brussels on June 4-5.

Brussels scouts Brady Berkompas, Ryan Webb, Kevin Labelle and Daniel Critics appeared individually before panels composed of Brussels community leaders and adult Eagle Scouts who were continuing their commitment to "give back to scouting more than scouting gave to me."

According to Air Force Col. Steve Webb, scoutmaster of Troop 457, on average, only four percent of the young men who start Boy Scouts each year ever achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. The hours of service, the development of leadership and the requirements to learn new skills through the system of Merit Badges (a minimum of 21 are required for Eagle Scout) means that this must be a long-term commitment and goal for the individual scout.

Completion of the above prerequisites is not sufficient, in and of itself, to earn Eagle Scout rank. Each candidate must propose, get approved, organize and complete a complex Eagle Project. The project must be geared toward community service, and the candidate is specifically required to recruit and organize other Scouts and volunteers to make it happen. The Eagle Project rigorously tests all the skills the Scout has acquired, especially his leadership abilities. It is anything but a "solo" project.

Freshman Brady Berkompas planned and excavated a low-maintenance indoor garden in the Brussels American School (BAS) foyer for his Eagle Project.

Ryan Webb, another freshman, spearheaded the refurbishment and painting of the BAS "Snack Shack."

Senior Kevin LaBelle led a collection drive to provide sports and school supplies to an orphanage in Poland in support of Military Community Youth Ministries and Club Beyond.

Finally, Senior Daniel Critics organized an effort to raise funds to purchase and install benches, tables and plants at his church, St. Paul's, in Tervuren.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Brussels Public Affairs Office

Brussels Boy Scout Daniel Critics (red shirt) leads a Group of Scouts at work on his Eagle Project. The project involved raising funds to purchase, assemble and install furniture and plants at the St. Paul's Anglican Church in Tervuren.

U. S. Army NATO Sgt. Maj. Thierry Baudouindajoux served as one of the Board of Review panelists, and is himself an Eagle Scout. "I was really honored to be part of the board that qualified these Eagle Scouts" he says. "I've watched each of them mature under scouting, and I was really impressed with how each comported himself at these very serious sessions. More important, it's a distinct pleasure and honor to have gotten to know these young men, who truly are part of the future leadership of our country. I salute them and their accomplishments."

Training volunteers wanted

Realistic training helps IDT staff save lives

Story and photos by J.D. Hardesty
Meteor-Heraut Editor

Eavesdroppers listening into the U.S. Army NATO Individual Deployment Training "net" would hear something more familiar to Iraq and Afghanistan than the woods and farmland of Chièvres Air Base.

"Blackjack sixty-nine this is Papa six over;"

"Papa six this is Blackjack sixty nine, go, over;"

Blackjack sixty-nine this is Papa six, convoy has a confirmed improvised explosive device in the middle of the road near checkpoint alpha, everyone dismounted."

Reacting to an IED is one of several scenarios sol-

on the radio at once to communicate effectively.

"We have to learn to gel as a team," Argonza said. "Any type of training always needs planning and team building.

"Evertime we do this we get better," Argonza said. "We just need to streamline our communications."

The instructors, many teaching with downrange experience, "preach" communication.

Instructors instill into students that the faster the communication, the faster decisions can be made. The faster the communication, the faster medical evacuations can occur. The faster the communication, the more Soldiers lives can be saved.



Individual Deployment Training students come under mortar attack during convoy operations as part of their train-up before heading downrange in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

diers deploying downrange go through in their train-up to support NATO missions worldwide.

While setting up a traffic control point, incoming mortar blasts near the roadway. The convoy commander, Master Sgt. Marco Argonza, from Component Command-Land Madrid, has to make split-second decisions to save his fellow Soldiers.

With mortar shells and small arms fire increasing, they mount-up and head further down the road, repositioning to set up a new traffic control point.

Spacing is critical. Communication is key.

Staff Sgt. Lawanda Hannon, assigned to Co. B, U.S. Army NATO in Heidelberg, Germany tries to give a situation report but there are too many people talking

"This type of training gives everyone understanding of their role," Argonza said. "It's tough to gel as a convoy team in just a few days, but that is realistic training as many of us will individually deploy downrange.

"We continue to apply 'sand box' lessons and the instructors provide quick assessments so we can learn," he said. "The bottom line is the more planning, rehearsing and working together, the better prepared we will be in our future missions."

IDT staff see volunteers

To provide America's Armed Forces deploying downrange in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom the best scenarios, IDT staff need volunteers to roleplay on the battlefield.

"The best way to simulate

Sgt. Stephen Hawkins, an IDT student stationed with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Germany, radios a situation report to headquarters during Individual Deployment Training at Chièvres Air Base.



Sgt. 1st Class Rickey Stokes applies a pressure dressing to a fellow soldier after their convoy simulated being hit by an roadside improvised explosive device during Individual Deployment Training June 15 at Chièvres Air Base.

the urban terrain Soldiers will face on the battlefield is to create similar conditions were we have more people involved in the training," said Capt. Jang Suh, the officer-in-charge.

According to Suh, "Volunteers will be limited to wearing clothing from that part of the world to simulate more civilians on the battlefield."

While there service is pro bono, there are some benefits for the civilian volunteers. Suh explained that those who help will be able to see what IDT does when they go into a tactical classroom environment.

"Volunteering will get a close-up look at the environment, the tactical awareness needed to survive and an appreciated vision of what their deployed spouse will go through," said Sgt. 1st Class Vetta Stanley, senior noncommissioned officer at the school. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or more and have an access pass to Chièvres Air Base.

According to Suh, all volunteers will receive role-playing instructions along with a safety briefing. They must be physically able to walk around for an extended period of time.

"It is a great way for the Chièvres community to support Soldiers downrange," Stanley said.

The school is looking for 10 volunteers per tactical training session, one on Wednesdays and two on Thursdays. For more information about volunteering and class sessions, call 361-6505.

Suh explained that creating more realism makes each individual augmentee's training more successful.

"Our job is to provide the best training geared toward the Central Command's area of operation to the for U.S. Army NATO Soldiers headed into harm's way," he said. The more confusion and distractions we can provide while they are going through the training, the better prepared our forces will be.

"Volunteers will help us better prepare the service members coming through the school."

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